



~~SECRET~~

Classification

Department of State
TELEGRAM

CN: 4460

25 JUN 70
1830

INDICATE:

- ☐ COLLECT
☐ CHARGE TO

POL 23-8

XR POL-2

DISTRIBUTION

CHARGE
AIDE
MINECON
POL 2
ECON
E/COML
USIS
POL/R
MILGP 2
DAO 3
SCI
SY
BELEM
SALVADOR
PALEGRE
CF

ACTION: SECSTATE WASHDC **4460**

INFO: AMEMBASSY BRASILIA **6312**
AMCONSUL RECIFE **3432**
" SAO PAULO **5447**
USCINCSO FOR POLAD

RIO DE JANEIRO **4460**

SUBJECT: AFTERMATH OF GERMAN AMBASSADOR'S KIDNAPPING

1. THERE IS STILL LITTLE INFO AVAILABLE CONCERNING GOB

INTENTIONS IN WAKE OF KIDNAPPING OF GERMAN AMBASSADOR.

EO50x1

SO FAR, ARRESTS HAVE BEEN AT FAIRLY NORMAL

LEVEL (SITUATION IS THUS REMINISCENT OF PERIOD FOLLOWING
RANSOM OF JAPANESE CONSUL GENERAL IN SAO PAULO LAST MARCH,
WHEN LISTS OF SUSPECTS WERE READIED FOR LARGE-SCALE ARREST
OPERATION WHICH FAILED TO COME OFF). HOWEVER, PROSPECT NOW
IS FOR MORE VIOLENT TACTICS ON BOTH SIDES, AS SECURITY FORCES
SEEK ENSURE THAT FUTURE TERRORIST CAPTIVES DO NOT SURVIVE TO
BE RELEASED IN KIDNAPPINGS.

DRAFTED BY
POL: REJohnson: ael

DRAFTING DATE
6/25/70

TEL. EXT.

APPROVED BY
CHARGE: CABoonstra Per

CLEARANCES:

EO50x1

ARMA - Col. Moura

Declassified
Authority: 43265 By:
Amanda Weimer Date:
05-12-2015

~~SECRET~~

Classification

FORM 4-68 FS-413(H)



~~SECRET~~

Classification

Department of State
TELEGRAM

- 2 -

INDICATE:

☐ COLLECT

☐ CHARGE TO

DISTRIBUTION

ACTION:

2. ONLY PUBLICIZED REACTION HAS BEEN DISCUSSION IN FEDERAL CONGRESS OF SUGGESTION BY DEPUTY FILINTO MULLER, ARENA LEADER, THAT ALL TERRORIST PRISONERS BE EXILED NOW TO FORESTALL FUTURE KIDNAPPINGS. PROPOSAL HAS DRAWN REALISTIC CRITICISM FROM HIS ASSOCIATES, ON GROUNDS THAT (1) MANY EXILEES WOULD PROBABLY RETURN TO BRAZIL ILLEGALLY TO CONTINUE THEIR SUBVERSION, AND (2) WITH JAILS EMPTIED, TERRORISTS WOULD LIKELY STILL FIND KIDNAPPING INTERESTING AS DEVICE TO ACHIEVE POLITICAL ENDS. MINJUSTICE BUZAID SAID MULLER'S PROPOSAL DESERVED CONSIDERATION, BUT THIS MAY HAVE BEEN MERE COURTESY TO A PRESTIGIOUS DEPUTY.

3. VON HOLLEBEN KIDNAPPING COST TERRORIST MOVEMENT MUCH OF WHATEVER TACIT SUPPORT IT MAY HAVE ENJOYED AMONG POPULATION AT LARGE. ORDINARY POLICEMAN WAS SHOT POINT BLANK IN HEAD BY KIDNAPPER. THIS ACTION STRIPPED TERRORISTS OF MUCH OF THE ROBIN HOOD AURA WHICH THEY PREVIOUSLY HAD IN THE EYES OF A FEW, AND WE UNDERSTAND "FESTIVE LEFT" YOUTH NO LONGER CHUCKLES OVER TERRORISTS' AUDACITY.

DRAFTED BY:

DRAFTING DATE

TEL. EXT.

APPROVED BY:

CLEARANCES:

~~SECRET~~

Classification



~~SECRET~~

Classification

Department of State
TELEGRAM

- 3 -

INDICATE:

- ☐ COLLECT
☐ CHARGE TO

DISTRIBUTION

ACTION:

4. LIKE OTHER LA KIDNAPPINGS, VON HOLLEBEN AFFAIR ~~HAS~~ BROUGHT SOME STRAIN IN HOST COUNTRY RELATIONS WITH AMBASSADOR'S GOVERNMENT. ~~THIS SEEMS INEVITABLE CONCOMITANT OF KIDNAPPINGS~~ BECAUSE OF DELICATE ISSUES INVOLVED HOST COUNTRY UNABLE FURNISH IMMEDIATE PROMISE THAT KIDNAPPERS' DEMANDS, WHATEVER THEY MAY BE, WILL BE MET. SPOKESMEN FOR VICTIM'S GOVERNMENT ARE THUS LED TO EXPRESS CONCERN, WHICH IN TURN CAN CAUSE RESENTMENT WITHIN HOST GOVERNMENT CIRCLES SENSITIVE TO FOREIGN "PRESSURE".

5. IN ABSENCE MORE CONCRETE INFO DIFFICULT ASSESS FULL IMPACT OF KIDNAPPING ON GOB. DECISION RELEASE PRISONERS SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN MADE WITH SUPPORT OF TOP LEADERSHIP, CIVILIAN AND MILITARY. ~~AND~~ EMB HAS NO REPORTS OF ORGANIZED OPPOSITION WITHIN MILITARY SUCH AS AROSE IN CONNECTION RANSOM OF AMBASSADOR ELBRICK (COL. DICKSON'S POCKET REVOLT). ARMA IMPRESSION IS THAT MILITARY LEADERSHIP EXPECTS HANDLING OF INCIDENT WILL IMPROVE BRAZIL'S IMAGE ABROAD. THEY ARGUE THAT IT SERVED TO DEMONSTRATE (1) GOB'S STEADFAST DETERMINATION HONOR ITS

DRAFTED BY:

DRAFTING DATE

TEL. EXT.

APPROVED BY:

CLEARANCES:

~~SECRET~~

Classification



~~SECRET~~

Classification

Department of State
TELEGRAM

- 4 -

INDICATE:

☐ COLLECT

☐ CHARGE TO

DISTRIBUTION

ACTION:

OBLIGATION PROTECT DIPLOMATS, AND (2) EXAGGERATED NATURE OF REPORTS OF ATROCITIES IN JAILS, WITH ALL 40 PRISONERS DEMANDED BY KIDNAPPERS TURNED OVER ALIVE WITHOUT VISIBLE EVIDENCE OF TORTURE (INCLUDING NOBREGA WHO HAD BEEN ADVERTISED BY ANTI-GOB PROPAGANDISTS AS DEAD).

6. NONETHELESS THIS DECISION WAS NOT AN EASY ONE FOR GOB TO MAKE (SEE RIO 4035), AND SOME IN GOB AND MILITARY HAVE THEIR RESERVATIONS [REDACTED]

EO50x1

[REDACTED] WE PRESUME THAT THERE ARE SIZEABLE ELEMENTS WITHIN LEADERSHIP OF MILITARY AND SECURITY FORCES AS WELL AS RANK AND FILE WHO ARE DEEPLY CHAGRINED OVER EVIDENCE OF EXTENT OF TERRORISTS' SUCCESS AND CONCERNED THAT THEY WILL BE ENCOURAGED TO KIDNAP AGAIN AND ESCALATE RANSOM. SO FAR MEDICI HAS SUCCEEDED IN CONTAINING SUCH DISCONTENT AS EXISTS, HELPED IN SOME MEASURE BY PUBLIC SUPPORT FROM PRESS AND CIVILIAN POLITICIANS (AS WELL AS BY EUPHORIA RESULTING FROM BRAZIL'S VICTORY IN WORLD FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT). HOWEVER, EFFORT TO MAINTAIN GOB RANSOM POLICY AFTER MORE KIDNAPPINGS COULD

DRAFTED BY:

DRAFTING DATE

TEL. EXT.

APPROVED BY:

CLEARANCES:

~~SECRET~~

Classification

FORM 4-68 FS-413(H)



~~SECRET~~

Classification

Department of State
TELEGRAM

- 5 -

INDICATE:

☐ COLLECT

☐ CHARGE TO

DISTRIBUTION

ACTION:

TOUCH OFF SERIOUS DISSENSION WITHIN GOB'S MAJOR BASE OF
SUPPORT, I.E. MILITARY.

7. NO EVIDENCE THAT STABILITY OF GOB IS THREATENED BY EFFECTS
OF VON HOLLEBEN KIDNAPPING. ^{HOWEVER,} TERRORISTS ARE PROBABLY INCREASINGLY
AWARE OF POTENTIAL WHICH KIDNAPPING HAS FOR CREATING (1) TROUBLE
IN BRAZIL'S RELATIONS WITH FRIENDLY COUNTRIES AND (2) PROBLEMS
FOR GOB AT HOME. WE ESTIMATE THAT, EVEN WITHOUT ESCALATING
DEMANDS, TWO OR THREE MORE KIDNAPPINGS COULD CLEAN JAILS OF
HARDCORE TERRORIST PRISONERS. AT THAT POINT TERRORISTS MIGHT
SHIFT GOAL AND SEEK TO THREATEN GOVERNMENT'S STABILITY BY
SERIES OF KIDNAPPINGS ORCHESTRATED FOR MAXIMUM DOMESTIC
POLITICAL IMPACT; I.E., FOR EFFECT IN UNDERMINING MEDICI'S
POWER BASE. KIDNAPPING OF SOME POPULAR AND RELATIVELY INDE-
PENDENT MILITARY LEADER COULD HAVE SUCH EFFECTS, ESPECIALLY
IF EO50X1 GOVERNMENT DECLINED TO PAY
RANSOM. SINCE ONE OF TRADITIONAL AIMS OF NON-DEMOCRATIC
LEFT WING MOVEMENTS IS TO POLARIZE POLITICAL SITUATIONS,

DRAFTED BY:

DRAFTING DATE

TEL. EXT.

APPROVED BY:

CLEARANCES:

~~SECRET~~

Classification

FORM 4-68 FS-413(H)



~~SECRET~~

Classification

Department of State
TELEGRAM

INDICATE:

- ☐ COLLECT
☐ CHARGE TO

- 6 -

DISTRIBUTION

ACTION:

PROBABILITY THAT ANY SUCCESSOR GOVERNMENT WOULD BE MORE
AUTHORITARIAN WOULD NOT BE LIKELY TO DETER TERRORISTS.

BOONSTRA

DRAFTED BY:

DRAFTING DATE

TEL. EXT.

APPROVED BY:

CLEARANCES:

~~SECRET~~

Classification

FORM 4-68 FS-413(H)